

A Voter's Guide for Women

# Why Women Should Vote!

If unmarried women voted at the same rate as married women, over six million more voters would have gone to the polls in 2000. Approximately 22 million single, divorced and widowed women who were eligible didn't cast their ballots and another 16 million weren't registered to vote. Women, on their own, can transform the face of American politics.



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PO Box 81454 Lincoln NE 68501-1454



# Why Women Should Vote ...

## Whether you're a...

- √ Single mom trying to improve your family's future
- √ Retired school teacher trying to make ends meet with high-cost prescriptions
- √ Woman responsible for a full-time job and caring for your aging mother
- √ Newly graduated college student seeking your first job

## You need to vote

because there are vital issues that impact you, your mother and your children.

## You need to vote

because you have the power  
- the power of women.

## Together

we can make a difference  
by each of us  
casting her individual vote.

# How many women & children do you know who have been raped or sexually assaulted? Let's talk about rape and sexual assault...

- ✓ Rape is violence against women and children, and about power and control.
  - ✓ According to the FBI, somewhere in America, a woman is raped every 2 minutes. The U.S. Justice Department reports that only 26% of those rapes or attempted rapes are reported to law enforcement officials.
  - ✓ Eighty-four (84%) percent of rape victims know their attacker in some way. This is called "acquaintance rape."
  - ✓ Female teenagers, between the ages of 11 to 17, are in the highest risk category (32%) of becoming a victim of rape. Girls under 11 years of age are in the second highest category (29%), followed by young women, ages 18 through 24. (22%).
- ☐ Does your candidate understand the importance of educating people regarding how to protect themselves?
  - ☐ How will your candidate strengthen and enforce laws on rape and sexual assault?

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## No health care insurance? You're not alone. Let's talk about Health Care costs...

√ There are 43.6 million people nationwide who can't afford to be sick. The Kaiser Family Foundations health care report shows that out of 525,000 females living in Nebraska, about 60,900 women (11.6%) had NO health care coverage during 2001 and 33,600 women (6.4%) were on Medicaid services.

√ Those without insurance in Nebraska are going up from an average of 9.6% between 2000 and 2002 to 10.3% over the past 3 years.

☐ How does your candidate propose addressing the healthcare crisis?

☐ Does your candidate support legislation that provides insurance to women and children living in poverty?

## Are you prepared to care for your aging parents? Let's talk about Caretaking...

√ Eighty percent (80%) of long-term care for older adults in the United States is provided by families. Caregivers often face extreme stress and financial burdens, especially those who are called the sandwich generation, middle-aged parents who care for their children and their own aging parents.

√ In 2003, 163,857 Nebraskans provided 176 million hours of unpaid caregiving services with an annual market value of \$1,546,000.

☐ Does your candidate endorse policies that support families who provide care help (such as Family Medical Leave Act [FMLA], respite care, tax breaks, flex time) for family members?

*you need to vote! you need to vote! you need to vote!*

## If he loves you, why does he hurt you? Let's talk about Domestic Violence...

- √ In Nebraska, 3,928 domestic assaults were reported in 2001. In fact, the total number of domestic assaults reported in Lincoln exceeded the total number of robberies, homicides, rapes, sex offenses and weapons violations.
  - √ Nearly 1/3 of American women (31%) reported being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives.
  - √ Nationally, 75% of female deaths relating to domestic violence occurs during the period of separation or while attempting to leave the abuser.
  - √ Why do women stay in abusive relationships? Because they have no money and fear that their standard of living will decline. They fear being homeless and hungry. Their abusers have convinced them that they are worthless and not capable of being independent. They may feel that it is their responsibility to stay in the relationship and make it work.
  - √ Abuse may negatively affect all aspects of women's lives such as credit ratings, work attendance or housing.
  - √ Women of all ages, all economic classes, all races, and all levels of education who live in all types of neighborhoods are subject to domestic violence and become victims.
- ☐ How well does your candidate understand the impact of domestic violence, including cultural and religious implications, on the victim, her family and the community?
  - ☐ Does your candidate support strong law enforcement to domestic assault & protection order violations?
  - ☐ Does your candidate financially endorse community network systems that address domestic violence?

*you need to vote! you need to vote! you need to vote!*

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## How much was your last paycheck? Let's talk about Employment and Wage ...

- √ Nebraska ranks # 2 in the nation for the percentage of women in the work force.
  - √ Nebraska ranks # 2 in the nation for the percentage of mothers in the workforce who have children between the ages of 6 and 17.
  - √ Women in Nebraska make 70¢ for every \$1 men make.
  - √ Nationally, in 2002, women earned 76.2¢ to every \$1 a man earned; for women of color, that gap is even larger. African American women earn just 63¢.
- ☐ Does your candidate support laws to increase a minimum wage to end the cycle of poverty and help women achieve self sufficiency?
  - ☐ How does your candidate support laws to ban discrimination in pay for jobs of equal skill, effort and responsibility?
  - ☐ How supportive is your candidate in advocating and financially supporting early care & education/childcare?

## Do your youth have access to guns? Let's talk about Gun Violence...

- √ Nationally, about 34% of American youth live in homes with at least one firearm. In almost 70% of these homes, more than one gun is present.
  - √ There are 8 times the number of firearm dealers as MacDonald's franchises in America. In Nebraska, there are 1,020 firearm dealers and pawnbrokers.
- ☐ What are your candidates views on gun control?



***you need to vote!***

- NOTES:

# Your Vote Does Count!

**WHAT IS AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?** Voters can use the Election Commission's official Absentee Ballot to cast their vote when they can't travel to their polling booth in their precinct.

**WHAT IS AN AGENT?** For election purposes, an "agent" is a volunteer who delivers the ballot to or from the Election Commission office on behalf of the voter. An agent can only act on behalf of two voters in one election. A Candidate or a member of a candidate's campaign committee can only be an agent for his or her own family member. The penalty for election falsification is imprisonment for up to five (5) years or a fine not to exceed ten thousand (\$10,000) or both.

**WHEN ARE ELECTIONS HELD?** In even-numbered years, Statewide Primary Elections are held the second Tuesday in May and the Statewide General Election is held the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November. In odd-numbered years, Lincoln City General Elections are held the first Tuesday in May with the Primary Elections held four weeks prior to the General Election.

**WHEN IS THE LAST DAY I CAN REGISTER?** Mail-in registration must be postmarked on or before the third Friday before an election. Register in person at the Election Office or outside registration sites up to 10 days before an election.

**WHEN IS THE LAST DAY TO MAIL BACK MY BALLOT?** Absentee Ballots can not be accepted after the following dates & times: Mail by 4 p.m. Wednesday before the election or In person by 5 p.m. on Monday before the election, or by agent at 7 p.m. on the Election Day itself.

**WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS?** In a partisan primary election, members of each party nominate candidates for the general election. Nebraska has five political parties recognized under state law: Republican Party, Democratic Party, the Libertarian Party, the Nebraska Party and the Green Party. If you register nonpartisan (independent) you will only be able to vote for ballot issues and nonpartisan candidates in the primary election.

**ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTING QUESTIONS?** Call Marilyn Olsen, Lancaster County Absentee Coordinator at (402) 441-7314.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Requesting an Absentee ballot eliminates your right to vote at your assigned polling place.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Election Commission, 601 N. 46th St., Lincoln NE 68503. Phone (402) 441-7311. Visit the Web site at [www.lincoln.ne.gov](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov) or e-mail David Shively at [dshively@ci.lincoln.ne.us](mailto:dshively@ci.lincoln.ne.us).



# YOUR VOTE DOES COUNT!

Dear Election Commissioner:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, (*print name*) am requesting an absentee ballot for the next election, scheduled to commence on Tuesday, \_\_\_\_\_ (*give election date*).

**I declare I am a registered voter and I reside at:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(*Home address or rural route*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(*City, state, zip code*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(*County*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(*Precinct*)

**I hereby declare, under the penalty of election falsification, that these statements are true, as I verily believe.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY - *name of registered voter*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(*Party affiliation*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(*Daytime phone number*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(*Signature of registered voter*)

**Please mail my absentee ballot to the following address:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(*Address or rural route*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(*City, State, Zip code*)

(Please respond to the following with Yes/No answers.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Are you serving in the military? (*Includes spouse or dependent of military personnel*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Are you temporarily outside of the United States or District of Columbia, or an overseas citizen?

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to be placed on the Election Commissioner's permanent **Absentee Ballot Request** form to receive an absentee ballot request form.

Oversized  
Postcard  
Affix 37  
Stamp

Return Address

Absentee Ballot Request  
Election Commission  
601 N. 46th St.  
Lincoln NE 68503